

# ARMENIA COUNTRY PROFILE

Since 1992 the United States has partnered with Armenia to establish democratic and economic institutions, expand trade and investment, promote independent media and civil society, and enhance energy security. We have supported improved access to healthcare and strengthened social protection systems. By promoting inclusive economic growth, participatory, effective and accountable governance and reforms to the social sector, USAID remains committed to supporting Armenia's journey towards a more engaged, prosperous and well-governed society.

# **Our Work**

Recent peaceful political transition in Armenia (the 2018 Velvet Revolution) has opened windows of opportunity for increased and new engagement with Armenia's government, private sector, civil society and public. USAID responded quickly to the changes and is working to reinforce and ensure democratic gains are **irreversible** through strategic efforts that support the Government of Armenia's anticorruption and sectoral reforms.

USAID currently supports 22 activities at the national and local levels in all ten regions of the country, and is an Agency leader in implementing activities directly through Local Solutions, with 50% of funds obligated to **local entities**, including host country government institutions, local organizations, and the local private sector. This approach is cost-effective, highlights local knowledge, and builds local capacity and legacy institutions, supporting Armenia on its **Journey to Self-Reliance**. USAID pays special attention to youth as drivers of change and cultivates innovation and technology across its programs to expand economic opportunities and reduce Armenia's isolation and border constraints.

#### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

USAID promotes rural development to support inclusive economic growth by helping create jobs in the hospitality and tourism sector, strengthening sustainable agriculture and agribusiness value chains, supporting interventions to reduce water loss in the Ararat Valley, and increasing access to markets. USAID also promotes energy security by supporting market liberalization reforms and electricity trade with Georgia and supports more efficient water management in the Ararat Valley. Through recent strategic partnerships with Microsoft, IBM, and National Instruments USAID is strengthening Armenia's IT industry and Research & Development (R&D) by developing talent for the workforce and accelerating start-ups.

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### **DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE**

USAID partners with the Government of Armenia, civil society, and media to promote more transparent and participatory governance at the national and local levels. These activities undergird the government's efforts to address corruption, strengthen public sector accountability, facilitate free and fair elections, reinforce legislative and political processes, and improve the rule of law and protection of human rights. USAID also works with civil society and media to ensure all citizens have access to independent and reliable sources of information, are empowered to articulate their interests, and constructively engage in policy development and implementation.

#### **INVESTING IN PEOPLE**

USAID works with local organizations to improve the welfare and social inclusion of vulnerable populations, specifically through support for the Government of Armenia's inclusive education reform agenda, and by building the capacity of community-level social workers. USAID also supports inclusive programming for marginalized populations, including Armenia's disabled and LGBTQI communities.

#### TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

In response to Armenia's revolution, USAID mobilized the Armenia Support Initiative (ASI), which provides rapid and flexible support for government-identified and led reform efforts. To further the government's goals of proportional development, ASI is working with local counterparts in rural areas to implement small-scale, community-led projects, including school refurbishments, infrastructure improvement, and other community priorities that engage civil society and solidify the government's democratic gains.







## **CONTACTS**

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